1 5 JUN 1986

MEMORANDIM FOR: The Honorable Walt W. Rostow

Special Assistant to the President for

Mational Security Affairs

The White House

SUBJECT

: An Appraisal of the Effects of the First Year

of Bombing in North Vietnam

1. The attached report represents a comprehensive research effort by this Agency and DIA on the effects of Rolling Thunder attack against North Vietnam in 1965, and will, I believe, be of interest to you.

- 2. Although the Rolling Thunder program flew many thousands of attack sorties against military and economic targets, the resultant damage was relatively light, in good measure reflecting the restricted nature of the air campaign. North Vietnam reacted vigorously to restore transport facilities essential to maintaining the flow of supplies to the insurgency in South Vietnam. The toll in human casualties, based on fragmentary sample data, is estimated to have been between 11,700 and 14,800, divided about equally between deed and wounded, with a somewhat higher percentage of military as compared to civilian casualties.
- 3. The major effect of the attack has been to force Hanoi to cope with disruption to normal economic activity and to divert mempower in significant numbers to war supporting activities. North Victnam may now require 200,000 full-time workers (or about 10 percent of the non-agriculture labor force) for tasks associated with dispersal and emergency repair and maintenance, and the part-time work of another 100,000.

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WILLIAM N. MORELL, JR. Director Research and Reports

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Identical memos sent to:

The Hon Walt W. Rostow, White House

Mr. Boomley Smith, White House

Mr. Thomas L. Hughes, State

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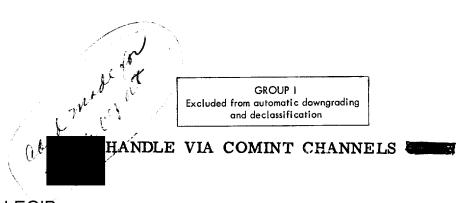
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